

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of communication of conversational data signals between terminals over a radio link providing full-duplex transmission of conversational data packets in alternate directions within pairs of time slots, said communication comprising time periods, each time period comprising a set of said pairs of time slots, and said terminals comprising respective reception and transmission modules for use in processing said conversational data packets respectively received at and transmitted from the corresponding terminal, the method comprising:

sending a first conversational activity signal from a first terminal of said terminals to a second terminal of said terminals in response to detecting local conversational activity at each of local to the first terminal said terminals;
sending a second conversational activity signal from the second terminal to the first terminal in response to detecting conversational activity local to the second terminal;
~~-respectively and sending conversational activity signals indicative of the local conversational activity from each of said terminals to the other terminal;~~
controlling said reception and transmission modules to communicate by half-duplex transmission of said conversational data packets in response to conversational activity at a first local to one of said first and second terminals but not at the second one other of said first and second terminals; and
at least partially deactivating said reception module at said first terminal and said transmission module at said second terminal during said half-duplex transmission so as to reduce their power consumption.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein controlling said reception module and said transmission module comprises at least partially switching off the supplies of power to said reception module and said transmission module.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein controlling said reception and transmission modules comprises generating audible comfort noise at said first terminal from a locally generated comfort noise signal during said half-duplex transmission.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said conversational data packets are communicated without return transmission of acknowledgement signals.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said conversational data packets comprise voice signals and the duration of said time periods corresponds to a phoneme period.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said conversational data packets are transmitted between said terminals over said radio link substantially in conformity with the Bluetooth standard.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said conversational activity signals are distinct from said conversational data packets.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said local conversational activity detection is performed during each of said time periods at each of said first and second terminals, and said first and second conversational activity signals are sent from each of the first and second terminals to the other of said first and second terminals at least once during each of said time periods.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in 18 where the first and second conversational activity signals are sent from each of the first and second terminals, respectively to the other of said first and second terminals in the same pair of time slots and control the half-duplex transmission direction for the next time period.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least a first one of said first and second terminals communicates with a third terminal over a further communication link, said first terminal signalling a third conversational activity signal indicative of conversational activity generated at said third terminal.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the same activity procedure is used in synchronization between all said terminals.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a different activity procedure is used in synchronization between one of said first and second terminals and another of said first and second terminals than between said one of said first and second terminals and a third one of said terminals.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said further communication link is a cellular telephone link.

24. (Currently Amended) A first terminal for use in communication of conversational data signals with another a second terminal over a radio link, said first terminal comprising:
reception and transmission modules providing full-duplex reception and transmission of conversational data packets in alternate directions within pairs of time slots, said communication comprising time periods each comprising a set of said pairs of time slots,

a conversational activity detector for detecting ~~local~~-conversational activity at local to said first terminal,

a signalling module for sending in each of said time periods a conversational activity signal indicative of the local conversational activity at said first terminal to said other second terminal and for receiving in each of said time periods a conversational activity signal indicative of a ~~local~~-conversation activity at local to said other second terminal, and

a control module responsive to conversational activity occurring at local to the first one of said terminal terminal and not occurring at the second one of said terminals for controlling said reception and transmission modules to communicate by half-

duplex transmission of said conversational data packets and for at least partially deactivating during said half-duplex transmission said reception module in the absence of remote conversational activity and said transmission module in the absence of local conversational activity so as to reduce power consumption.

25. (Previously Presented) A terminal as claimed in claim 24 wherein said control module comprises an element for at least partially switching off the supplies of power to said reception module and said transmission module when deactivated during said half-duplex transmission.

26. (Previously Presented) A terminal as claimed in claim 24, wherein said control module comprises an element for generating audible comfort noise from a locally generated comfort noise signal during said half-duplex transmission.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein controlling said reception and transmission modules comprises generating audible comfort noise at said first terminal from a locally generated comfort noise signal during said half-duplex transmission.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said conversational data packets are communicated without return transmission of acknowledgement signals.